

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Coleen Hart, U.S. EPA
FROM: Karen Rydzewski, FIT
DATE: August 26, 1991
SUBJECT: Calumet Industries Site, Gary, Indiana
IND014387880/F05-9104-048/FIN0567PA

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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The Calumet Industries site, which ceased operations as a tank refurbisher and scrap iron dealer in 1970, is located at 6010 W. Industrial Highway, Gary, Indiana, across from Gary Municipal Airport. The Calumet Industries site is located on property that is owned by Gary Municipal Airport and currently is leased by Correct Piping. The Calumet Industries site is a two-acre site within the boundaries of Correct Piping. On the two-acre site area[#] a machine shop and sand blasting shanty, formerly used by Calumet Industries. These buildings currently serve as a machine shop for Correct Piping. are #

On May 27, 1987, FIT conducted a site inspection. During this inspection, FIT was to collect a sample in an alleged waste pit; however, this waste pit was not found. FIT collected four soil samples from the site and one background sample. Several organic compounds were detected in the samples, including Aroclor 1260 (520 mg/kg). The inorganic analysis detected cyanide (3.5 mg/kg), copper (829 mg/kg), lead (151 mg/kg), and nickel (54 mg/kg).

FIT returned to the site on May 21 and 22, 1991, to conduct an off-site reconnaissance inspection. The entire site is fenced with security guards at the entrance.

Because of the high permeability of the subsurface soils and the heavy precipitation in the area, the potential exists for downward

migration of organic and inorganic compounds. Drinking water wells in the area draw from a shallow aquifer.

The potential for surface water contamination also exists. Any type of runoff from the site would enter the drainage ditch that borders the eastern edge of the site. This ditch then enters wetlands before draining into the Grand Calumet River. The Grand Calumet River then empties into Lake Michigan where the Whiting, East Chicago, and Gary, Indiana, drinking water intakes are located.

The likelihood of an air release is very low. During the FIT site inspection in 1987, all air monitoring instruments showed normal readings. Also, during the FIT off-site reconnaissance inspection in 1991, no odors or releases were detected.

Finally, the potential for direct contact with the soil exists. Although the site is entirely fenced, there are approximately 10 to 12 workers on-site who can potentially come into contact with the soil.

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Coleen Hart, U.S. EPA
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On May 21 and 22, 1991, Ecology and Environment, Inc., Field Investigation Team (FIT) conducted an off-site reconnaissance inspection of the Calumet Industries site. The site was entirely fenced, and a drainage ditch was observed on the eastern edge of the site as a possible overland migration route to surface water. Organic and inorganic compounds detected in soil samples were documented on the site on May 27, 1987. No excavation of soil has ever been completed. Based on this information, FIT recommends a medium priority, excavation of the soil, and post-sampling to verify removal of the potential sources of contamination.

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